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Ravalli County Commissioners

March 14, 2007

Board of County Commissioners  
Montana Coalition of Forest Counties

Dear Commissioners,

As you are keenly aware, as the Secure Rural Schools Act PILT funding and 25% revenues generated by Federal land continues to be reduced there has been a corresponding increase in wildfire hazard on Federal lands that fuel firestorms which are regularly blown onto private and state lands. These Federal fires cause State, County and local Fire Districts extreme firefighting costs as well as property and resource damage that results in polluted air and water, firefighter safety threat, and public health and safety impacts.

Please see the attached invitation to learn from a nationally recognized expert in helping local governments and other Federal land stakeholders deal with the problems large Federal ownerships are imposing on local County governments and the taxpayers. The Fred Kelly Grant public address on April 13 and the April 14 Saturday workshop for stakeholders is hosted by Montanans For Multiple Use and Montanans For Property Rights at no cost to attendees.

Please especially consider attending the Saturday workshop and let us know by April 10 the number of workshop attendees from your county.

Sincerely,

Fred D. Hodgeboom, President  
Montanans For Multiple Use  
406.837-1363

**SATURDAY, APRIL 14**

**WORKSHOP FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS  
On  
“COORDINATING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND USE”**

**Sponsored by: Montanans for Multiple Use AND Montanans for Property Rights**

**Location: Montana Logging Association Building  
2224 Mt. Hwy 35 (across Hwy. Just east of Hooper's Nursery)  
Kalispell, MT 59901**

**(Be prepared to present your assessment of the most important problem that needs a solution)**

**AGENDA**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>8:30 - 9:00</b>  | <b>Rolls and Coffee</b>   |
| <b>9:00 -12:00</b>  | <b>Workshop - Community Leaders list of problems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>- Road mapping for successful results</b></li><li><b>-Lecture and discussion led by Fred Kelly Grant</b></li><li><b>- Lay ground work for workshop topics</b></li></ul> |
| <b>12:00 -12:45</b> | <b>Catered Lunch</b>  |
| <b>12:45 – 4:00</b> | <b>Workshop Session: Property and Natural Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>- Coordination with Governmental Agencies (USFS)</b></li><li><b>- Protecting private property rights</b></li></ul>   |
|                     | <b>Group Reports on strategy planning</b><br><b>Summation by Fred Grant</b>   |

**Please notify Clarice Ryan 406.837-6929 by April 10 the number of attendees from your organization**

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**FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 6:30 p.m.**

**PUBLIC MEETING  
Country Kitchen Flathead County Fairgrounds, Kalispell**

**“COORDINATING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND USE”  
Coping with These Times on Our Lands**

**Speaker, Fred Kelly Grant**

**Community Leaders will also be interested in attending the “Public Meeting” at which Fred Grant will provide an overview and invite discussion of a wide range of land and resource problems and issues.**

**PRESS RELEASE:**

**COORDINATING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND USE**

**"Coordinating Public and Private Land Use", Coping with These Times on Our Lands, will be the topic addressed by a nationally known lawyer and lecturer being sponsored by Montanans for Multiple Use and Montanans for Property Rights. The speaker, Fred Kelly Grant, specializes in equipping people to effectively deal with land use and resource management issues as related to both public and private lands. He will provide the information and tools needed to preserve personal property rights as well as access, use and enjoyment of public lands.**

**Fred Grant is a native of Nampa, Idaho, and a graduate of the College of Idaho specializing in Constitutional History followed by attendance at the University Of Chicago School Of Law. He served in the Maryland Court of Appeals before becoming an associate at Lord, Bissell and Brook law firm in Chicago representing Lloyd's of London. He then served as Assistant State's Attorney in District of Maryland and later as State's Attorney of Baltimore in the field of organized crime and criminal defense. Upon returning to Idaho he set up his own law firm where he achieved recognition as an expert on land use issues. He has been an active consultant to the Board of County Commissioners regarding Land Use Planning for federally managed lands throughout the country. He stresses the need for strengthened local government and public involvement in formulating and administering policies related to protection of private property as well as the Federal agency management of public lands.**

**Ever increasing laws and regulations at all governmental levels attract his attention such as the endangered species act, habitat management, conservation easements and natural resource use. Trends in land use management, especially as related to county and neighborhood planning and zoning developments have drawn public attention. Few people have the extent of knowledge and expertise in the structure of local government as Fred Grant. He has helped local organizations and individuals across the nation to develop successful planning and productive involvement in coordinating strategies.**

**The lecture will be held 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., Friday, April 13 in the Country Kitchen at the Flathead County Fairgrounds, North Meridian and West Idaho, Kalispell. Attendance is free of charge, with contributions welcome to offset expenses. Also encouraged will be support for Stewards of the Range, a national property and Constitutional rights organization for whom Grant is a consultant and Litigation Committee Chairman. This organization is a powerful force in dealing with land issues both federal and private. Steward's flagship project is the landmark case of Hage v. United States challenging environmental regulations. The late Wayne Hage and his wife Helen Chenoweth-Hage spoke here in Kalispell a few years ago.**



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**PUBLIC MEETING**

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**“COORDINATING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND USE”  
(Coping with these Times on Our Lands)**

**Speaker, Fred Kelly Grant**

**As a renowned lecturer for leading organizations throughout the western states, Fred Kelly Grant has encountered the many land use related situations and trends, both public and private, unique to this part of the country. He shares his expertise in the strategies which have proven successful in dealing with programs and policies involving various governmental agencies, Federal, state and local, as well as special interest groups. This meeting will be an opportunity for attendees to express their concerns and questions concerning land use matters impacting our lives, and to benefit from Fred’s analysis and recommendations. Our problems may thereby, be converted to challenges and achievable opportunities.**

**Few people know more about local government than Fred Kelly Grant, who draws upon his vast experience working in and out of government. In his early career he represented Lloyd’s of London with a Chicago law firm before moving on to become Chief of the Organized Crime Unit in Baltimore, Maryland. He then joined the Governor’s Office in Idaho where he became an expert on open land use issues. He is a consultant to Owyhee County Natural Resource Committee as well as the Idaho Board of County Commissioners regarding Land Use Planning for federally managed lands. His expertise has helped local organizations and individuals develop strategies for coordinated property management, both private and public, merging the interests of each. He has been a consultant to Stewards of the Range since 1997 and is now President of the Stewards Board of Directors and Chairman of their Litigation Committee.**

**There is no charge for this program, but contributions will be welcome to offset expenses. For further information on this upcoming event contact:**

**Fred Hodgeboom, President, Montanans for Multiple Use: 406-837-1363  
[hodgeboom@centurytel.net](mailto:hodgeboom@centurytel.net)**

**Ron Olfert, President, Montanans for Property Rights: 406-828-0035  
[rolfert@blackfoot.net](mailto:rolfert@blackfoot.net)**